

**CONSTITUTION**  
**&**  
**BY-LAWS**  
  
**OF**  
  
**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
**HOOKS, TEXAS**

**January 13, 2008**

## **PREAMBLE**

For the most certain preservation and security of the principles of our faith, and to the end that this body may be governed in an orderly manner, consistent with the accepted tenets of the missionary Baptist denomination, and for the purpose of preserving the liberties inherent in each individual member of this Church and the freedom of action of this body with respect to its relation to other churches of the same faith, we do declare and establish this Constitution and By-Laws.

## **CONSTITUTION**

### **ARTICLE I**

#### **NAME**

This body shall be known as the First Baptist Church of Hooks, Texas.

### **ARTICLE II**

#### **ARTICLES OF FAITH**

##### **I. Scriptures**

The scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are the only sufficient, certain and authoritative rule of all saving knowledge, faith and obedience.

##### **II. God**

There is but one God, the Maker, Preserver and Ruler of all things, having in and of Himself all perfections, and being infinite in them all; and to Him all creatures owe the highest love, reverence and obedience.

##### **III. The Trinity**

God is revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, each with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence or being.

##### **IV. Providence**

God from eternity decrees or permits all things that come to pass, and perpetually upholds, directs and governs all creatures and all events; yet so as not in any wise to be the author or approver of sin nor to destroy the free will and responsibility of intelligent creatures.

## **V. Election**

Election is God's eternal choice of some persons unto everlasting life--not because of foreseen merit in them, but of His mere mercy in Christ--in consequence of which choice they are called, justified and glorified.

## **VI. The Fall of Man**

God originally created man in His own image, and free from sin; but, through the temptation of Satan, he transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original holiness and righteousness; whereby his posterity inherit nature corrupt and wholly opposed to God and His law, are under condemnation, and as soon as they are capable of moral action, become actual transgressors.

## **VII. The Mediator**

Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, is the divinely appointed mediator between God and man. Having taken upon Himself human nature, yet without sin, he perfectly fulfilled the law, suffered and died upon the cross for the salvation of sinners. He was buried, and rose again the third day, and ascended to His Father, at whose right hand He ever liveth to make intercession for His people. He is the only Mediator, and Prophet and King of the Church, and Sovereign of the Universe.

## **VIII. Regeneration**

Regeneration is the change of heart, wrought by the Holy Spirit, who quickeneth the dead in trespasses and sins, enlightening their minds spiritually and savingly to understand the Word of God, and renewing their whole nature, so that they love and practice holiness. It is a work of God's free and special grace alone.

## **IX. Repentance**

Repentance is an evangelical grace, wherein a person being, by the Holy Spirit, made sensible of the manifold evil of his sin, humbleth himself for it, with godly sorrow, detestation of it, and self-abhorrence, with a purpose and endeavor to walk with God so as to please Him in all things.

## **X. Faith**

Saving faith is the belief, on God's authority, of whatsoever is revealed in His word concerning Christ; accepting and resting upon Him alone for justification, sanctification and eternal life. It is wrought in the heart by the Holy Spirit and leads to a life of holiness.

## **XI. Justification**

Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal from all sin of sinners, who believe in Christ, through the satisfaction that Christ has made; not for anything wrought in them or done by them but on account of the obedience and satisfaction of Christ, they receiving and resting on Him and His righteousness by faith.

## **XII. Sanctification**

Those who have been regenerated are also sanctified by God's word and Spirit dwelling in them. This sanctification is progressive through the supply of Divine strength, which all saints work to obtain, pressing after a heavenly life in cordial obedience to all Christ's commands.

## **XIII. Perseverance of the Saints**

Those whom God hath accepted in the Beloved, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere to the end; and though they may fall, through neglect and temptation, into sin, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, bring reproach on the Church, and temporal judgment on themselves, yet they shall be renewed again unto repentance, and be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

## **XIV. The Church**

The Lord Jesus is the Head of the Church, which is composed of all His true disciples, and in Him is invested supremely all power for its government. According to His commandment, Christians are to associate themselves into particular societies or churches; and to each of these churches He hath given needful authority for administering that order, discipline and worship which He hath appointed. The regular officers of a Church are Bishops or Elders (Pastors) and Deacons.

## **XV. Baptism**

Baptism is an ordinance of the Lord Jesus, obligatory upon every believer, wherein he is immersed in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, as a sign of his fellowship with the death and resurrection of Christ, for the remission of sins, and of his giving himself up to God, to live and walk in newness of life. It is prerequisite to church membership.

## **XVI. The Lord's Supper**

The Lord's Supper is an ordinance of Jesus Christ, to be administered with the elements of bread and grape juice, to be observed by His churches till the end of the world. It is in no sense a sacrifice, but is designed to commemorate His death, to confirm the faith and other graces of Christians, and to be a bond, pledge and renewal of their communion with Him, and of their church fellowship.

## **XVII. The Lord's Day**

The Lord's Day is a Christian institution for regular observance, and should be employed in exercise of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private, resting from worldly employment and amusements, works of necessity and mercy only excepted.

## **XVIII. Liberty of Conscience**

God alone is Lord of the conscience; and He hath left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men, which are in anything contrary to His word, or not contained in it. Civil magistrates being ordained by God, subjection in all lawful things commanded by them ought to be yielded by us in the Lord, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

## **XIX. The Return of Christ**

We believe in the imminent personal coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His own, and His subsequent premillennial return to the earth to set up His Kingdom. (See I Thes. 4:13-18 and Acts 15:16-17)

## **XX. The Eternal State**

We believe that at death the spirits and souls of those who have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation pass immediately into His presence, and there remain in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the body at His coming, whereupon soul and body will be reunited to enjoy the glories and blessings of Heaven forever. We believe also that the souls of those who have rejected Jesus Christ as Saviour remain after death in conscious misery until the final judgment of the Great White Throne, when soul and body reunited, will be cast into the lake of fire to be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord. (See II Cor. 5:6,8; Luke 16:19-26; Rev. 20:11-15)

## **ARTICLE III**

### **CHURCH COVENANT**

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations. We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Saviour, to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **CHARACTER**

Section 1. Policy. The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and co-operation which are common among Baptist churches.

Section 2. Doctrine. This church receives the Scriptures as its authority in matters of faith and

practice. Its understanding of Christian truth as contained therein is in essential accord with the belief of the Baptist churches as indicated in the Articles of Faith herein.

## **BY-LAWS**

### **ARTICLE I**

#### **AFFILIATIONS OF THE CHURCH**

This Church shall affiliate with and support such entities that will allow us to fulfill the Great Commission so long as such programs do not infringe upon our rights as a spiritual democracy. This Church shall further cooperate with the chosen denominational agencies by making all necessary reports and any other way the church feels that the Kingdom of our Lord may be advanced.

### **ARTICLE II**

#### **RECEPTION OF MEMBERS**

Section 1. Any person professing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour, having presented himself publicly to the Church, having given evidence of a spiritual experience with God, having been accepted by vote of the Church, and having been baptized by immersion, may be received into church membership and enter into its Church Covenant.

Section 2. Members from other churches holding the same faith, may be received by letters of recommendation and dismissal from their respective churches. If such letters are not readily available, such members may be received pending the arrival of their Church letters.

Section 3. Any person who at some time has held memberships in a Baptist Church, or any immersed believer from a church of like faith, who in consequence of some peculiar circumstances has no regular letter of dismissal, by giving satisfactory evidence to the Church of a change of heart, Christian conduct, and spiritual faith, may be received into membership.

Section 4. All persons received into the membership of this Church, whether by baptism or otherwise, shall receive a copy of the Church Constitution and By-Laws, to the end that they may act understandingly as to the responsibilities assumed.

### **ARTICLE III**

#### **DISMISSAL OF MEMBERS**

Section 1. Members changing their place of residence shall give immediate notice of the same to the Pastor or Clerk. If prevented from regular attendance with us by reason of such removal, and having access to a church in which they can satisfactorily worship and serve in the spirit of our Church Covenant and Articles of faith, they shall be encouraged to affect transfer of their church membership.

Section 2. All letters of dismissal shall be applied for through the Pastor or Clerk of the Church. A report of all such letters shall be made to the church at the next regular business meeting.

Section 3. Any member having cause of complaint against another must seek to remove it as directed in the Eighteenth Chapter of Matthew. If this is not sufficient, the complaint shall be brought to the attention and counsel of the Deacon Body, who shall report their findings and recommend to the church such action as may seem wise and proper. All discipline shall be formulated and carried out in the spirit of Christ, in meekness and godly fear, lest any fall by the way. Upon recommendation of the Deacon Body and vote of the Church, a member guilty of conduct unbecoming his profession and

membership may be excluded, provided that reasonable notice of such contemplated action shall be given to such member (if he can be found) and opportunity given for defense or satisfactory explanation. No member shall be excluded from this Church without the privilege of a hearing (if he can be found).

## ARTICLE IV

### GENERAL DUTIES OF MEMBERS

In addition to such duties as are outlined in the Church Covenant, all members are urged to assume their proportionate amount of responsibility in the following:

Section 1. Attendance Upon Services. Members are expected to attend the two Services of Worship on the Lord's Day, the Midweek Prayer Service, the regular and called business meetings of the Church, and other organizational meetings which are deemed helpful in their own spiritual development. All members are expected to enter in silence, worship in reverence, depart to serve.

Section 2. Time and Talents. Each member is expected to contribute a reasonable portion of his time, and to use his talents in order that God's work shall be advanced in our community.

Section 3. Church Expenses. Each member is encouraged to tithe and give an offering toward the operating expenses of the Church, and to support the financial program adopted by the Church. All active members of the Church and Sunday School will be provided Church envelopes in which to give tithes and offerings.

Section 4. Special Collections. No person shall be permitted to take up special offerings or set up special accounts without prior presentation to the Finance Committee and the approval of the Church. The only exception will be small contributions that are made for individual class activities such as flowers, socials, etc.

Section 5. Church Activities. All activities of the Church will be supported financially by the church. All moneys will be accounted for in the quarterly report of the Treasurer including the fund raisers, love offerings and special gifts.

## ARTICLE V

### CHURCH OFFICERS AND STAFF

Section 1. Ordained Officers. There are two biblical officers of this Church, a Pastor and Deacons. In order to efficiently conduct Church business, additional officials are established in Section 2.

A. Pastor. It shall be the duty of the Pastor to preach the Gospel, administer the ordinances, and shepherd the congregation. He shall represent the Church at meetings of affiliate organizations. When present, if he desires, he shall serve as moderator of all church business. He shall be a member of the Church and be ex officio member of each committee. He shall provide pulpit supply. In consultation with the Personnel Committee and other key members (musicians, choir members, youth and parents, Sunday School and Discipleship leaders, etc.), he shall be responsible for recommending pastoral and ministry support (office) staff to be called by vote of the church. He shall be responsible for work assignments, supervision and, in consultation with the Personnel Committee, dismissal of pastoral and ministry support staff.

B. Deacons. The deacons shall be a member of the Church and will constantly cooperate with and aid the Pastor in all matters relating to the spiritual interest of the Church; to care for the poor; to visit the sick; to be responsible for pulpit supply when not provided by the Pastor; to distribute the Lord's Supper. It shall be their duty to report at business meetings of the Church on any matters to which the Church should give attention. At its eleventh-month meeting every second Church year, the

Deacons shall elect a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary for the ensuing year. Requests for use of the Church buildings and equipment is part of the Deacon's responsibility. The Deacons will appoint and present to the Church for approval at its business meeting in the 8th month of the Church year, the Nominating Committee, to serve during the following Church year. Deacons serve in an advisory capacity to the Church and meet regularly each month.

Section 2. Church Staff. These officials are to assist in the efficient conduct of Church business.

A. Trustees, Planning and Survey. Five Trustees shall serve as legal custodians of the real and personal properties of the Church, as required by law, performing such duties as the position requires. They are also responsible for the adequate coverage by insurance on the real and personal properties of the Church. This committee shall be responsible for the planning and surveying of future needs. The Trustees are elected to serve continuously as long as deemed appropriate by the Church.

B. Clerk. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to keep a faithful record of the business proceedings of the Church meetings, to keep an accurate and complete roll of the Church membership and to conduct all correspondence relative to the Church membership. (The integrity of such records and roll are the full responsibility of the Church Clerk.) The Clerk may, therefore, maintain records of business proceedings and roll of membership at his home or wherever he can best maintain unquestionable integrity and complete control of all records. If any records such as old or superseded ones are to be maintained in other than the immediate possession of the Church Clerk, they will be filed in cabinets within the secured offices of the Church. When a new Church Clerk assumes office, the outgoing Clerk will surrender all records to the incoming Clerk. This will include a joint review by the two Clerks of records retired to the Church offices if applicable. The Clerk shall also serve as Historian and shall record a continuous narrative account of worthy and interesting events in the Church life, and preserve the same in permanent form. A report on the addition to this account for the past year will be rendered to the Church at its annual business meeting. The Clerk will be elected annually.

C. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall pay all bills according to instructions from the Church, keep a record of all expenditures, and keep a record of all monies as verified and receipted by the Finance Committee. When a request is made for funds, it shall be stated from which item in the budget the amount is to be drawn, also to see that no expenditures exceed the amount stipulated in the budget for such item, and see that non-budget items are not paid without authorization from the Church. A statement shall be rendered by the Treasurer to the Church at all regular business meetings. The Treasurer shall be a member of the Finance Committee. The Treasurer is elected annually.

D. Associate Pastoral Staff to lead music, youth, education or any specific ministries will be called to minister and when necessary be dismissed in accordance with ARTICLE V Section 1 A.

E. Continuing Education for Church Staff. The Ministerial Staff (Pastor, Minister of Music, Education, Youth, etc.) shall, at least once each Church year, participate in a training conference, seminar, workshop, etc., in their particular area of work. The choice of this training event will be made by the staff and expenses will be paid by the church. In some cases there may be exceptions to this continued training such as a student staff member who is taking college/seminary courses that meet this requirement. Any exceptions shall require the approval of the Pastor in consultation with the Staff and Deacons.

## ARTICLE VI

### COMMITTEES

No committee chairman shall normally serve in excess of two consecutive years. Each committee shall meet at least quarterly at the call of the chairman. All committees shall be elected annually. The chairman shall be elected from within each committee.

Section 1. Auditing. The Auditing Committee has the responsibility to verify the financial

records and proper accounting procedure of the church unified budget with a view to reporting hereon to the Church through the annual audit report or other statements. No member of the Budget and Finance Committee can be a member of this committee. The books must be audited within 30 calendar days after closing the financial year. A report must be made to the church at the business meeting following January 1. All accounts of the church must be audited.

Section 2. Baptismal. The Baptismal Committee seeks to make the observance of the Ordinance of Baptism comfortable and meaningful, and to provide the necessary arrangements for baptism.

Section 3. Budget and Finance. The Committee shall consist of four (4) members of the Deacon Body, plus the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, and shall act as the fiscal agency of the Church, and as such shall devise a budget that meets the approval of the Church, to govern the expenditures of funds. This committee shall be responsible for counting, verifying and delivering to the Treasurer all Church receipts for the unified budget to be deposited in our regular bank. No obligation to pay any indebtedness shall be recognized unless same shall have been authorized by vote of the Church in business meeting, either through approval of the annual budget, or if conditions require, by approval of a specific expenditure. This committee will make an annual report showing the ratio of income to expenditures on each line item.

Section 4. Flower. The Flower Committee is responsible for the provision of flowers and decorations for Worship Services and for Memorial Services for Church Members and other members of their household.

Section 5. Hospitality. The Hospitality Committee will be responsible for the care, use and maintenance of the kitchen and related equipment, and for all foods and refreshments prepared for church activities. Any group wishing to use the kitchen must get permission from this committee. It is also responsible for meals and lodging of guests of the Church and for all receptions and special meals sponsored by the Church.

Section 6. Nominating. The Nominating Committee shall consist of three (3) members in addition to the Pastor, Pastoral Staff, Sunday School Director and Discipleship Training Director. A Chairman shall be elected from the Committee. This committee will nominate all annually elected officers, committees (except Nominating Committee) and teachers. The Sunday School Director and Discipleship Training Director will be presented to the Church for election in the eighth (8) month of the Church year. Upon election, they shall become members of the Nominating Committee, to assist in nominating teachers and departmental workers for the next church year. The remaining elected personnel will be presented to the church for approval in the twelfth (12) month of the Church year. Church members have the right to nominate from the church floor.

Section 7. Nursery. The Nursery Committee is responsible for care and maintenance of the Church Nursery and related equipment. This committee shall cooperate with those responsible for providing workers during Sunday, Wednesday evening and other activities. This committee shall be responsible for supervision of paid and volunteer nursery workers. In consultation with the Personnel Committee, this committee shall recommend hiring and dismissal of paid nursery workers.

Section 8. Building and Grounds. The Building and Grounds Committee shall be responsible for the maintenance and repair of all local Church property except movable properties under the care of other committees. The chairman shall organize this committee with sub-committees as he deems appropriate and necessary. The custodian shall be responsible to this committee.

Section 9. Usher. The Usher Committee shall be responsible for the seating of the Congregation at all services, provide for their comfort and safety, and assist the Pastor in the service as requested by him. They shall also be responsible for the greeting and welcoming those present at all Sunday services, for issuing programs of service, and receiving the offering.

Section 10. Personnel. The Personnel Committee shall consist of five (5) members. The Pastor will be available to give advice. The scope of responsibility of this committee shall include all personnel of the church. This committee shall meet at least one time in each quarter.

Section 11. Training and Guidance of Committees. The training and guidance of all committees shall be the responsibility of the pastor and/or his designee from the pastoral staff.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

Section 1. Pastor. The Pastor shall be elected by affirmative vote of 75% of the church members present and voting at a special meeting following the evening service of the Sunday the prospective Pastor is before the Church in view of a call. The Pastor, when elected, shall continue to serve as long as he and the Church agree. A two (2) weeks notice of termination will be given by the Pastor or Church.

Section 2. Deacons. Deacons shall be elected by the Church after examination of qualifications and recommendation by the Deacon Body, and shall serve as long as they are active within the church, unless they request removal or it should be found necessary for just cause to remove them. After six (6) months observation and approval by the Church, ordained Deacons becoming members of the fellowship, will be recommended by the Deacons to the Church for recognition as active Deacons.

Section 3. Trustees. The trustees shall be elected to serve as long as they are active within the Church, unless it should be found necessary for just cause to remove them. Election to fill a vacancy of a Trustee position may be held at any regular business meeting of the Church.

Section 4. Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall be elected by the Church at the business meeting in the eighth (8) month of the Church year. This committee will be recommended to the Church by the Deacons.

Section 5. Special Committees. Special Committees shall be elected by the Church at a regular or called business meeting, to fulfill special needs as appropriate.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **CHURCH BUSINESS MEETINGS**

Section 1. Regular business meetings of the Church shall be held in the Sanctuary of the First Baptist Church at 210 Wilder, Hooks, TX once each quarter on the second Sunday of that quarter at the time of usual evening services, but exceptions may be made by two weeks prior announcement by the moderator. It shall be the duty of the members of the Church to attend the same. Every member of the Church present shall be entitled to vote on all questions. At such meetings, reports shall be accepted from all organizations and committee chairmen, and shall become a part of the minutes of the meetings. The Chairman of the Deacons shall serve as moderator in the absence of the Pastor.

Section 2. A quorum for the transaction of any business shall be five percent (5%) of the resident membership.

Section 3. The Rules of Order listed in Article X shall govern all business meetings of this church.

Section 4. Special Business Meetings may be held at any regularly scheduled service when deemed necessary. However, such special business meetings shall not be held without prior special announcement in at least one of the regular Sunday worship services preceding the special business meeting. Such special announcements must identify the items of business to come before the Church and no other business will be discussed or acted upon at such special meetings.

## ARTICLE IX

### CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS

The Church shall maintain organizations such as Sunday School, Discipleship Training, Missions and Evangelism Training, councils or committees as necessary to perform her Great Commission calling of worship, evangelism, fellowship, discipleship, and ministry.

## ARTICLE X

### RULES AND ORDER FOR CHURCH SERVICES

Section 1. The Pastor of the Church, or, in his absence, the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Deacons, shall act as moderator at all meetings for the transaction of business.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the moderator to maintain order, state and explain propositions, and to recognize the members who desire to address the Church body. He shall endeavor at all times to govern the body by well established parliamentary procedure.

Section 3. He shall allow no second motion to be entertained until the one under consideration has been disposed of, except motions to substitute, to amend, to postpone, to adjourn, or to put the main question.

Section 4. He shall call to order any member who, while speaking, introduces any subject not related to the one under discussion.

Section 5. The moderator may speak upon any subject under discussion by inviting some other member to take the chair.

Section 6. If a member wishes to speak, he shall rise, and respectfully address the moderator, be recognized, state proposition, and be seated.

Section 7. Every proposition presented for the action of the Church must be introduced upon motion of one who is a member and seconded by another who is a member.

Section 8. Any person may appeal any point of order from the moderator for the membership, whose decision on the matter shall be final.

Section 9. All questions shall be decided by majority vote except as otherwise prescribed in other sections of these rules.

Section 10. Any matter pertaining to the policy or principles of the Church, before being acted upon by the Church, shall be referred to the Deacons. Any such matter proposed to the Church without consideration by the deacons, shall receive such consideration at the next regular meeting of the Deacons.

Section 11. The Church Covenant, Constitution, By-Laws, and Rules of Order shall be read at such times as the Church deems fit.

Section 12. All questions of parliamentary law and practice not herein provided for shall be decided in accordance with Roberts Rules of Order.

## ARTICLE XI

### CHANGES IN THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

The Constitution and By-Laws of this Church shall not be altered or amended except by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those members present at a regular business meeting of the Church, and after at least one week's notice of such proposed change has been given to the Church, in writing, designating the

Articles and Sections affected thereby, and stating the proposed changes to be made. The Church may adopt in regular business meeting such By-Laws as may be necessary for the proper conduct of its business.

### **AMENDMENT 1**

**ARTICLE V, Section 2 A** is amended to read:

Trustees, Planning and Survey. A minimum of five trustees shall serve as legal custodians of the real and personal properties of the Church, as required by law, performing such duties as the position requires. They are also responsible for the adequate coverage by insurance on the real and personal properties of the Church. This committee shall be responsible for the planning and surveying of future needs. The Trustees are elected to serve continuously as long as deemed appropriate by the Church.

Changed by order of the Church on January 21, 2007.

### **AMENDMENT 2**

**ARTICLE VI, Section 3** is amended to read:

Budget and Finance. The Committee shall consist of four (4) members of the Church, plus the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, and shall act as the fiscal agency of the Church, and as such shall devise a budget that meets the approval of the Church, to govern the expenditures of funds. This committee shall be responsible for counting, verifying and delivering to the Treasurer all Church receipts for the unified budget to be deposited in our regular bank. No obligation to pay any indebtedness shall be recognized unless same shall have been authorized by vote of the Church in business meeting, either through approval of the annual budget, or if conditions require, by approval of a specific expenditure. This committee will make an annual report showing the ratio of income to expenditures on each line item.

Changed by order of the Church on January 11, 2009.

### **AMENDMENT 3**

**AMENDMENT 1 of the Constitution and By-Laws is to be amended to read:**

Trustees, Planning and Survey. A minimum of five (5) trustees shall serve as legal custodians of the real and personal properties of the Church, as required by law, performing such duties as the position requires. They are also responsible for the adequate coverage by insurance of real and personal properties of the Church. This Committee shall be responsible for planning and surveying of future needs. There shall be a minimum of two (2) Trustees to act as agents pertaining to the signing of such documents, deeds and papers concerning the Church's business. The Trustees are elected to serve continuously as long as deemed appropriate by the Church.”

Changed by order of the Church on October 24, 2012.

## AMENDMENT 4

**The Constitution and By-Laws is to include ARTICLE XII and shall read:**

### ARTICLE XII

#### DISSOLUTION CLAUSE

Section 1 The Members of the Church, by the required affirmative vote, may dissolve the Church.

Section 2 If the Church dissolves or ceases to function as a Church, then, after the satisfaction of all obligations, debts, and liabilities of the Church, all of the assets of the Church, including its personal and real property, appurtenances, and effects, shall inure to the benefit of, and become the property of, the Bowie Baptist Association (BBA), if the BBA, at that time, exists and is willing and able to accept the assets of the Church under the conditions of § 501(c)(3) of the Code.

Section 3 If the Church dissolves or ceases to function as a Church, and if the BBA has dissolved or is unwilling or unable to accept the assets of the Church under the conditions of § 501(c)(3) of the Code, then, after the satisfaction of all obligations, debts, and liabilities of the Church, all of the assets of the Church, including its personal and real property, appurtenances, and effects, shall inure to the benefit of, and become the property of, Southern Baptist of Texas Convention (SBTC), if the SBTC, at that time, exists and is willing and able to accept the assets of the Church under the conditions of § 501(c)(3) of the Code.

Changed by order of the Church on February 2, 2014.

